

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 12, 16, and 21-22 are pending. Claims 5, 6, and 16 were allowed. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 16 were objected to because they depend on rejected claims. Claims 21-22 are withdrawn from consideration.

Rejection under 35 USC 102. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by species found in Sohda, Harbeson, Bailey, and Takeuchi. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, thus removing the basis for this rejection.

Rejection under 35 USC 103. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Sohda, Harbeson, Bailey, or Takeuchi. As noted above, these references contain anticipating species to Claims 1 and 2. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and claim 12 amended to depend on claim 3. These actions remove the basis for any rejections based on construed obviousness

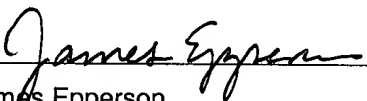
Summary of Claims 1-16. The applicants believe that Claims 3-7, 12, and 16 are now allowable, and the basis for all rejections and objections for these claims have been removed. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102. These claims have been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 were objected to for being dependent on claims 1 and 2. These claims have been amended—claim 3 is now independent and claim 4 depends on claim 3. Claim 5 is allowed. Claim 6 depends on claim 5. Claim 7 was objected to for being dependent on claim 1. This claim has been amended to depend on claim 3. Claims 8-11 were previously canceled. Claim 12 is addressed above. Claims 13-15 were previously canceled. Claim 16 is allowed. Claims 18-20 were previously canceled.

Withdrawn Claims 21 and 22. In the office action dated 7/2/2002, the examiner stated that if any claims were found allowable from the elected group, method-of-use claims would be rejoined for examination. In the next office action dated 11/19/2002, the applicants adopted the examiners advice on method claims—claims 18 and 19 were canceled and suggested claims 21 and 22 added. Because the examiner stipulated that these claims were enabled, the applicants believe there is no serious burden to examine them and respectfully request the restriction requirement be withdrawn and the new claims examined and allowed.

In view of the above remarks, the applicants believe the application is in allowable form and respectfully request favorable reconsideration. If any issues remain regarding the allowance of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the applicants' agent, James Epperson, by phone (203-677-6974), fax (203-677-6900), or e-mail (james.epperson@bms.com).

Respectfully submitted,

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